



14 April 2006



Message from the Commanding General United States Army Training and Doctrine Command

Motorcycle Accident Prevention

In the past 2 weeks, three TRADOC Soldiers were involved in serious motorcycle accidents. The consequences from these separate accidents were two fatalities, and one Soldier hospitalized with broken arms and a punctured lung.

During FY 02 to date, 16 out of 70 fatal privately owned vehicle (POV) accidents in TRADOC involved motorcycles. A large percentage of these tragedies were directly attributable to either indiscipline or noncompliance with standards. I am especially concerned that 13 of the 16 fatal motorcycle accidents over the past 5 years involved motorcycles operated by leaders in the rank of staff sergeant and above. This past week's accidents involved a warrant officer and two first sergeants. All three accidents occurred off-duty and off-post. Initial information indicates that one of the fatal accidents may have involved alcohol, and in another, the Soldier was not wearing a helmet.

With the summer season upon us and with an expected increase in motorcycle operations, I want you to review your installation policy and practices for motorcycle registration and operation. Update and enforce as necessary to ensure compliance with the DOD/Army policy. Do not limit your focus to motorcycle operators. In many cases it is the failure of other vehicle operators that leads to these tragic accidents. Use your Public Affairs Office (PAO), local media, and command information to get the word out to all drivers. Highlight the need for driver awareness and responsibility.

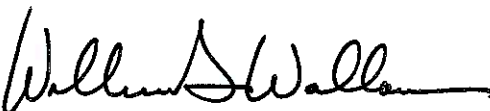
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Get the word out to the Soldiers, civilian workers, retirees, and family members. Coordinate with PAO to enlist the support of the local news media to educate and inform the public. Remind drivers to remain alert for motorcycles and remind motorcycle operators of the safety training and protective equipment requirements for on-post motorcycle operations. Insist security checkpoints identify and deny access to motorcycle operators that do not comply with the licensing, safety training, or protective equipment requirements. Also, educate Soldiers that the driver training and protective equipment requirements for motorcycle operation apply while operating a motorcycle off-post. Engage your first-line leaders in enforcing standards.

I want to stop this trend now. Take whatever appropriate action you deem necessary, and ensure you get the word out to your subordinate commanders and junior leaders that loss of life due to lack of discipline and noncompliance with safety precautions is unacceptable and preventable. We need every Soldier on our team.

Victory Starts Here!

LEADERSHIP--FORCE PROTECTION--SAFETY


WILLIAM S. WALLACE
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Commanding



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